procedures and control arrangements in identified fraud prone areas. Besides, the banks are also required to report all major frauds above a certain cut-off point to Central Bureau of Investigation The Central Vigilance Commission is also overseeing the functioning of vigilance machinery of all banks and all disciplinary cases of senior management officials are to be referred to them. An annual review of the vigilance arrangements obtaining in the banks is also undertaken by the Government.

Australian investment in India's Development

7559. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India have invited Australia to participate in its development by investing in India: and

(b) if so, the response of that Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Invitations for Australian participation have been extended, in line with the general policy of liberalisation and foreign investment, at various fora; such as during the visit of the Vice President to Australia in April, 1994.

(b) The Australian Government and Australian business and industry have responded positively to the new trends towards liberalisation initiated by India.

Price stability of essential commodities

7560. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to use foreign exchange reserves to ensure adequate availability and price stability of essential commodities in the country;

(b) whether such a step will adversely hit the economy of the country;

(c) whether Government have any alternative steps to streamline the price stability and availability of essential commodities; and

(d) if so, the further actior Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has permitted imports of sugar, raw cotton, edible ols and pulses under OGL to augment the domestic supplies so as to moderate the increase in their prices.

(b) Such imports constitute a very small proportion of the domestic output and hence cannot have any adverse effect on the country's economy.

(c) and (d) Government have taken the following steps as part of supply Management Policy to bring moderation in prices:

(i) allow open market sale of wheat by FCI.

(ii) allow open market sale of rice by FCI.

(iii) allow sugar imports under OGL with zero duty.

(iv) allow palmolin oil import under OGL.

(v) supplement edible oil stocks for PDS through imports at concessional import duty.

(vi) allowing import of cotton under OGL with zero duty.

(vii) allowing import of VSF at concessional duty of 7 percent.

(viii) intending Selective Credit Control measures for agro-raw materials.

Expected NRI investments in India

7561. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had talks with the Non-Resident Indians during his visit to USA.

(b) if so, whether they were prepared to invest in India in the areas of power telecommunications and environment; and

(c) if so, the quantum of investment expected from these NRIs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Non-resident Indians (NRIs) who met the Prime Minister during his visit to USA expressed Keen interest in investing in the Indian industry.

(c) While no specific quantum of investment from USA based NRIs could be predicted at this stage, with the positive impression the Prime Minister made on his, visit. India would expect a significant boost in investment and trade with USA.

Foreign exchange earning companies in the country

7562. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the name of first 5 Indian companies topping/leading amongst the foreign exchange earning companies in the country;

(b) what are the companies which have recommended 1:1 bonus to the shareholders during the current financial year;

(c) the Indian companies which are leading in market capitalisation at more than Rs. 6,500 crores during 1993-94; and

(d) whether Government are satisfied with the response of foreign/international investors in the country under the liberalised economic policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Yes, Sir. The response of foreign international investors under liberalised economic policies has been encouraging

Impact of scam on foreign investment

7563. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what, in Government's view, has been the impact of 'Scam' on Direct Foreign Investment, and to what extent inadequate monetary management has acted as a damper to such investments;

(b) what is the actual Direct Foreign Investment in the Country during the period 1st June, 1993 to 30th May, 1994; and

(c) whether during the aforesaid period, the domestic savings have also shown declining trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) There is no evidence of any adverse impact of 'Scam' on Direct Foreign Investment.

(b) Actual inflow of direct foreign investment during 1993 and up April, 1994 is Rs. 2494.58 crores. This excludes inflow on account of Global Depository Receipts, Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds and Foreign Institutional Investors.

(c) No, Sir.

Recommenations made by inter-ministerial committee

7564. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a representation has been received by the Ministry of Finance re-